

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155130
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155130

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILL, LE, US, IS

SUBJECT: U.S. ASSISTANCE IN REBUILDING LEBANESE ARMY

1. BY SEPTTEL YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED BACKGROUND INFORMATION
RE OUR TENTATIVE PLANS FOR ASSISTING THE LEBANESE GOVERN-
MENT IN REBUILDING A UNIFIED NATIONAL ARMY, ALONG WITH
DESCRIPTION OF INITIAL SENATE REACTIONS TO OUR IDEAS. WE
HAVE MENTIONED TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT
IT WAS YOUR JUDGMENT THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A U.S.
ROLE IN SUPPORTING THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE LEBANESE ARMY.
WE NOW NEED A MORE EXPLICIT EXPOSITION OF THE ISRAELI POSI-
TION FROM ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT TIMELY
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TO SHARE WITH THE ISRAELIS OUR TENTATIVE THINKING.

2. PLEASE, THEREFORE, CONTACT APPROPRIATE ISRAELI OFFICIAL
AND DRAWING ON PARAS 2-6 IN SEPTTEL, DESCRIBE THE LEBANESE
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AND OUR THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT.
PLEASE SEEK THEIR REACTION, EMPHASIZING THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE
THERE BE NO PUBLICITY ABOUT FACT WE ARE DISCUSSING THIS

QUESTION WITH GOI. PUBLICITY WOULD OBVIOUSLY GREATLY COM-
PLICATE SARKIS' PROBLEMS. WE WOULD HOPE ISRAELIS COULD GIVE
US MORE THAN A "NO OBJECTION" AND TELL US THEY SUPPORT THE
KIND OF LIMITED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WE HAVE IN MIND. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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